

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

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TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TGEN, MFM, BR

SUBJECT: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF
TECHNOLOGY

REF: BRASILIA 6229, STATE 182086

FOR GRANGER FROM BOWDLER

1. FOLLOWING IS FURNISHED FOR YOUR USE IN HANDLING OF
ANY CRITICISM THAT AT UNCTAD THE US TOOK A POSITION ON
CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY CONTRARY TO
THAT TAKEN AT BRASILIA WORKING GROUP MEETING LAST JUNE:

A. AT THE BRASILIA MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP
ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY THE DELEGATES
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AGREED THAT SUB-GROUP III WOULD "CONSIDER A CODE OF

CONDUCT FOR THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS." THE US APPROVED INCLUSION OF THIS GUIDELINE IN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IN THE WORKING GROUP FORUM THERE WOULD BE A CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE. WE SEEK AMPLE TIME FOR CONSULTATIONS BEFORE ANY DECISION IS TAKEN WITH REGARD TO THE FEASIBILITY OF AGREEING ON A CODE OR STATEMENT OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND WHAT THE CONTENT MIGHT BE. THIS CONTINUES TO BE OUR

UNDERSTANDING AND OUR PURPOSE. WE WANT TO CLOSE OFF NO POTENTIAL AVENUES OF COOPERATION; AT THE SAME TIME, WE NEED TO ANALYZE ALL PROPOSITIONS FULLY AND CANDIDLY WITH YOU.

B. THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING DISCUSSION OF THIS QUESTION IN BRASILIA WAS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE PREVAILING WHEN IT WAS DEBATED AT THE UNCTAD MEETING IN GENEVA LAST MONTH. THE UNCTAD CONSIDERATION PROCEEDED ON THE BASIS OF DRAFTING OF A CODE WITHOUT THE CAREFUL PREPARATORY WORK WHICH WE PLAN TO GIVE THE SUBJECT IN THIS FORUM. WE DID NOT CONSIDER THAT THIS WAS A WISE OR PRODUCTIVE WAY TO PROCEED IN HANDLING SO IMPORTANT AND COMPLEX A SUBJECT.

C. THE DELIBERATE APPROACH ENVISAGED BY OUR METHOD OF WORK IS THE ONE MOST LIKELY TO PRODUCE THE LASTING RESULTS WE ALL SEEK. THIS APPROACH WILL GIVE US A YARDSTICK OF WHETHER WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON BALANCED, MEANINGFUL PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. WE WILL WORK TOGETHER WITH YOU IN THIS SPIRIT.

2. SEPARATE CABLE FOLLOWS WITH ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON THE UNCTAD DISCUSSION. INGERSOLL

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